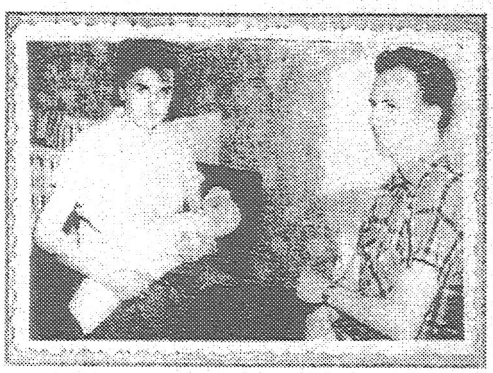
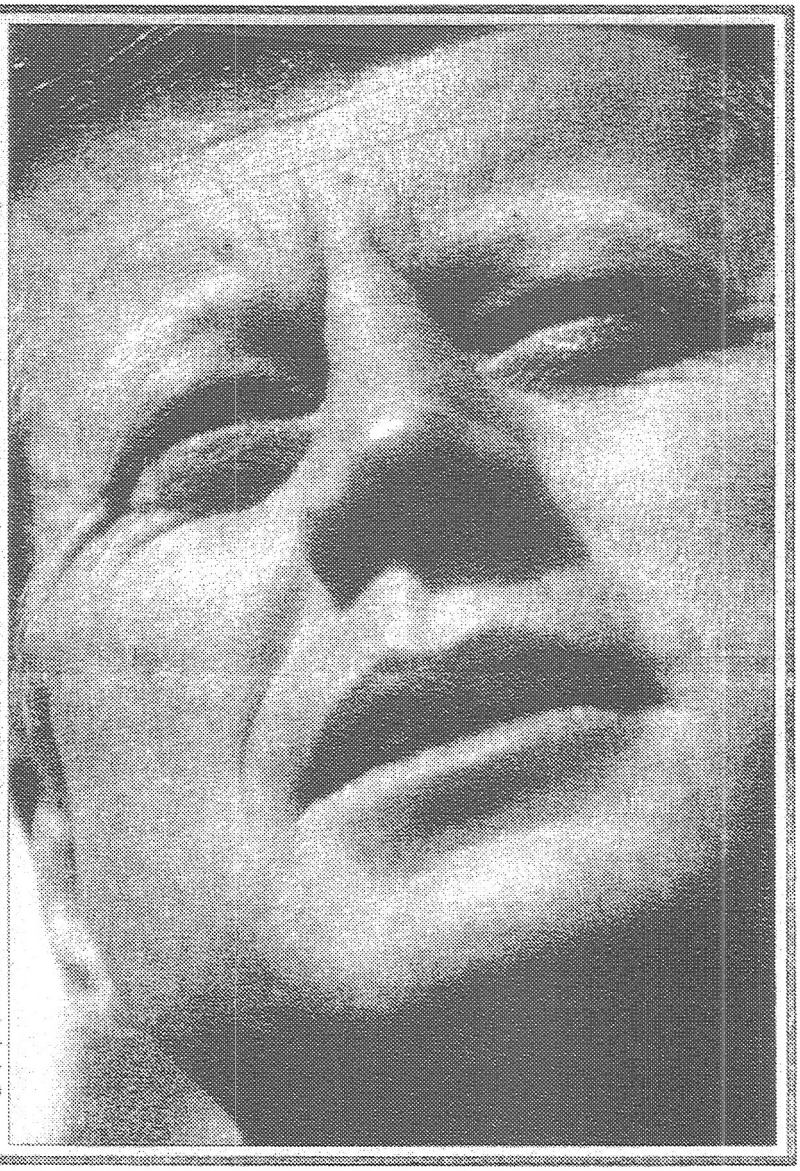
JFK
FILES
OSWALD SECRETS RELEASED



OSWALD AND KENNEDY: Presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald, in newly released photo, with wife Marina and daughter June Lee. Papers on JFK's slaying include new information about Oswald's travels before Nov. 22, 1963.



From Dallas to Congress

Chronology of the assassination of John F. Kennedy and succeeding events:

▶ **Nov. 22, 1963:** President fatally shot while riding in Dallas motorcade. Lee Harvey Oswald, ex-Marine and one-time Soviet citizen, is arrested.

▶ **Nov. 24, 1963:** Oswald fatally shot by Dallas nightclub owner Jack Ruby.

▶ **Nov. 29, 1963:** U.S. Chief Justice Earl Warren is named to head commission to investigate assassination.

▶ **September 1964:** Commission concludes Oswald, acting alone, shot Kennedy. Critics say panel didn't look far enough into possibility of broad conspiracy.

▶ **September 1978:** House of Representatives creates special committee to re-examine case.

▶ **December 1978:** House committee concludes Kennedy was probably conspiracy victim.

▶ **August 1992:** Congress passes law ordering release of Kennedy papers.

By Tim Dillon, USA TODAY

SOAKING UP HISTORY: Tom Pettit, an NBC reporter who was in the Dallas Police garage when Jack Ruby shot Lee Harvey Oswald, goes through newly released data at the National Archives.

review documents still considered critical to U.S. security.

The review board was supposed to start Jan. 25, but President Clinton has not named any of its members.

The White House is reviewing possible names, says spokeswoman Lorraine Voles: "We're moving ahead in the process, we're just not ready to make an announcement."

Meanwhile, the files are full of Oswald vignettes.

All rumors appear to have been investigated:

▶ FBI agents spent weeks interviewing hundreds of Dallas dry cleaners, trying to identify a laundry tag on one of Oswald's sport jackets.

▶ Oswald died without returning an overdue book to the Dallas library: *The Shark and the Sardines*, attacking U.S. policies in Latin America.

▶ A House assassination committee report released for the first time says Oswald may have had a mistress while in Mexico — a woman who worked as a secretary at the Cuban embassy.

Among those scrutinizing the files at the National Archives Monday was Notre Dame law professor G. Robert Blakey, who was counsel to the House committee. He says about 95% of the committee's files have now been made public.

"Two percent should be kept secret and another 3% should come out. Until the president appoints the panel, the American people aren't getting the material they're entitled to," says Blakey.

Some who support the notion that Oswald was Kennedy's sole killer say assassination buffs will never be satisfied.

"If every document was made available tomorrow and proved there was no conspiracy, (*JFK* director) Oliver Stone and other conspiracy die-hards still would not believe," says Gerald Posner, author of *Case Closed*, a new book that says Oswald operated alone.

Still, questions about the assassination pile up.

A CBS News/*New York Times* poll in 1992 found 75% thought there was an official cover-up; in 1966, a Gallup poll found 50% thought more than one assassin was involved.

Why the skepticism?

The first misstep may have come within the first two weeks after the assassination, when the Warren Commission, named by President Johnson to quell rumors about the assassination, first convened.

At its first secret meeting — previously withheld minutes were released Monday — chairman and Supreme Court chief justice Earl Warren said he saw no need to hire investigators. "I don't see any reason why we should duplicate the facilities of the FBI or the Secret Service," he was quoted as saying.

The commission was on the road to being viewed as an apologist for government investigators.

But nothing released Monday changes the bottom line, insists former commission lawyer David Belin: "The more that's released the more the record will prove that the assassination sensationalists have been spinning a web of deceit."

Contributing: Robert Davis, Dennis Cauchon and Sam Vincent Meddis